DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305

407602

BA

30 March 1981

Mr. Tommy F. McCraw
Environmental Programs
EV-30, Room F-237
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. ~~McCraw~~ Tommy:

Enclosed are copies of several pieces of correspondence concerning the relocation and resettlement of the inhabitants of Utirik Atoll after the 1954 CASTLE operation. I hope these may be helpful to you.

We have not found any other materials pertaining to this. However, you will note Drs. Bond and Cronkite were present and discussions with them might provide insight into where the decisions were made and who the participants were.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Ed

EDWIN T. STILL, DVM
Assistant to the Director
(Biomedical Effects)

Enclosure
as

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HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
APO 187 (HOW), c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

J-3/141.8

1 May 1954

SUBJECT: Survey of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

TO: Commander in Chief, Pacific
Navy No. 128, c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

1. Forwarded herewith is the report of the survey party which visited Rongelap and Utirik Atolls during the period 21-23 April, in order to determine what action must be taken prior to return of the native populations to these places.

2. I concur in the recommendations submitted. I recommend that you designate as soon as possible your representative who will coordinate the activities of interested agencies in this project. I assure you that the personnel and facilities of Joint Task Force SEVEN will be made available to your Project Officer as long as elements of the Task Force remain in the Forward Area.

3. When I am advised of your approval of the recommendations contained in this report, additional copies will be reproduced here and forwarded to interested agencies for their use.

/s/ P W Clarkson
P. W. CLARKSON
Major General, USA
Commander

1 Incl
Report of Survey of
Rongelap and Utirik
Atolls (in dup)

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY:

Robert Chesney

ROBERT CHESNEY
Major USAF
Adjutant General

[redacted]

14-86 UNCLASSIFIED

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HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
APO 187 (HOW), c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

30 April 1954

SUBJECT: Survey of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

THRU: Commander, Joint Task Force SEVEN
APO 187 (HOW), c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

TO: Commander in Chief, Pacific
Navy No. 128, c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

1. References:

a. Letter, CJTF SEVEN to CINCPAC dated 9 April 1954, subject: "Return of Inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik to their Home Atolls".

b. Message, CINCPAC to CJTF SEVEN, 140042Z April 1954.

c. Message, CINCPAC to CNO, 160501Z April 1954.

2. In accordance with the provisions of references a and b, a survey party visited Rongelap and Utirik Atolls during the period 21-23 April 1954. The mission of the survey party was to determine what action must be taken prior to the return of the native population to these atolls, from which they were evacuated early in March 1954 as a consequence of the initial detonation of the CASTLE test series. The composition of the survey party is indicated in Inclosure 1. A narrative account of the activities of the survey party, including observations concerning the two atolls, is presented in Inclosure 2.

3. In general, the conclusions of the survey party confirmed the planning factors outlined in reference a. The natives of Utirik Atoll may be returned to their homes shortly after the last shot of the CASTLE series. On the other hand, the natives of Rongelap Atoll can not be returned to their homes for approximately one year. 1 May 1955 is recommended as the planning date for the return to Rongelap. The natives of Rongelap should be examined periodically to monitor their recovery from

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H-87

UNCLASSIFIED

the effects of the radiation received, and Rongelap Atoll should be visited quarterly by RadSafe personnel to monitor the decay of the contamination there.

4. The survey party submits the following specific recommendations:

a. UTIRIK

(1) Several days after the last CASTLE shot, Utirik Atoll should be inspected again by RadSafe personnel of JTF SEVEN or AEC to determine whether or not additional contamination has occurred. If no increase in external radiation and food and water contamination levels is noted, the return of the natives may be undertaken without delay. The contamination levels now present at the two atolls are indicated in Inclosure 3. Research analysis of the foods and water collected is being made by NRDL and NYOO.

(2) CINCPACFLT should designate a project officer to coordinate the activities of interested agencies in the return of the Utirik natives.

(3) CINCPACFLT should designate and make available a ship which will transport the Utirik natives and their belongings from Kwajalein back to Utirik. In addition to the few personal effects the natives have with them, the following items should be moved to Utirik. These items should be assembled by the CINCPACFLT project officer in coordination with the local Kwajalein representative of TERPACIS, and the funds for necessary purchases should be provided by JTF SEVEN:

(a) Used lumber, already made available by ComNavSta Kwajalein.

(b) Flour, salt and other staple items of food supplies adequate for one month.

(c) Limited amounts of nails, window glass, metal roofing and medical supplies as determined by CINCPACFLT project officer in coordination with Kwajalein representative of TERPACIS.

(d) 10,000 gallons of fresh water to flush and refill Utirik cisterns.

(e) Approximately 400 chickens, 120 pigs and small numbers of other animals as determined by CINCPACFLT project officer, in coordination with TERPACIS rep-

resentative. Some of these animals are already being obtained by the TERPACIS representatives at Kwajalein.

(4) The survey party was advised that on a number of occasions LSTs have entered the Utirik lagoon. The use of this type ship is recommended, if the CINCPACFLT project officer concurs after investigation of the lagoon channels.

(5) No construction or repair work by U.S. personnel is required, since little deterioration of the buildings on Utirik has occurred since the evacuation.

(6) No decontamination work is required, except for the flushing and cleaning of cisterns recommended above.

b. RONGELAP

(1) The natives of Rongelap Atoll should be relocated on an island of the Kwajalein Atoll for the period of approximately one year. BIKEJ Island has been selected by TERPACIS representatives at Kwajalein for this purpose. This island is under control of TERPACIS. COMNAVSTA KWAJ concurs in this selection. The relocation near NAVSTA Kwajalein is in accord with the recommendations of the Project Officer of Project 4.1, who will shortly conclude the active medical surveillance of the Rongelap natives at Kwajalein.

(2) As in the case of the Utirik natives, CINCPACFLT should designate a project officer to coordinate the activities of interested agencies during the temporary relocation of Rongelap natives and during their ultimate return to their homes.

(3) The temporary nature of this relocation should be given wide publicity throughout the Trust Territories and U.S. news media, after the movement has been completed.

(4) The AEC contractor at the Pacific Proving Grounds (Holmes and Narver, Inc.) should prefabricate as necessary and supervise the construction of small wood dwellings, a combination school and church, a dispensary, and other buildings and cisterns for the 82 Rongelap natives to be relocated temporarily in the Kwajalein Atoll. Materials for this construction will be provided from Eniwetok and delivered to the site of the new village by JTF SEVEN. Details of the construction required are presented in Inclosure 4.

[redacted]

(5) Common labor for this construction should be provided by the natives of Rongelap themselves, as much as possible. Holmes and Narver personnel will perform the more difficult tasks. Native labor should be paid wages by JTF SEVEN at a wage scale determined by the representatives of TERPACIS.

(6) Water and staple food supplies for one month should be provided initially, as in the case of the Utirik natives covered above. Likewise, chickens and animals should be provided in numbers determined by representatives of TERPACIS and the CINCPACFLT project officer. In addition, the Rongelap natives must be provided minimum food supplies and other essentials on a continuing basis, since they will have no income from sale of copra and since BIKINI Island provides meager quantities of natural foods.

(7) Just prior to the time the Rongelap natives are moved from Kwajalein Island to BIKINI Island, a ship should be sent to Rongelap Island to pick up the clothing, books and other belongings (including two 30-foot sloops) of the natives. Decontamination of these items should be performed at Kwajalein under supervision of local or JTF SEVEN RadSafe personnel.

(8) Periodic medical surveys of the natives and RadSafe surveys of the atolls should be conducted by qualified personnel operating out of NavSta Kwajalein. Dr. Bugher, DBM, AEC, stated that his office would periodically send groups of qualified personnel to Kwajalein for this purpose.

(9) AEC RadSafe personnel resident in the Pacific Proving Grounds, in conjunction with representatives of DBM, AEC, should make periodic inspections of the islands of Rongelap Atoll to ascertain the rate of decay of the contamination. Reports of these inspections should be forwarded to interested agencies; AEC, CINCPACFLT, JTF SEVEN, COMNAVSTA KWAJALEIN.

(10) A representative of CINCPACFLT, probably COMNAVSTAKWAJ, should monitor the general welfare of the Rongelap natives during their temporary stay at Kwajalein Atoll.

(11) In the spring of 1955, another survey party should visit the islands of Rongelap Atoll and the natives in their temporary homes at Kwajalein Atoll to determine when these natives may be returned to their homes and what additional action must be taken prior to their movement form Kwajalein Atoll. The same agencies should be represented on this later survey party as on this group. Funds required for this movement and the construction and supplies necessary at Rongelap Island will be provided by JTF SEVEN.

[redacted]

SUBJECT: Survey of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls.

5. All members of the survey party agree on the recommendations presented. CDR E. P. CRONKITE, Project Officer of Project 4.1 was not a member of the survey party, but he was consulted several times. His views were considered by the survey party. All data from the testing of soil, water and food items will not be available and evaluated for some weeks.

6. Finally, the survey party emphasizes the importance of publicizing the temporary nature of the relocation. It is possible that the natives will be content to remain at Kwajalein Atoll after they live there a year, under subsidy of the U.S. Government. Mr. Neas, District Administrator of TERPACIS at Majuro, stated at a conference at Kwajalein on 27 April 1954 that it is the policy of TERPACIS to discourage concentration of Marshallese natives at a few commercially favorable locations and to discourage too rapid acquisition of wealth by small groups of natives. This policy confirms the recommendation made above that the subsidy provided the natives while at Kwajalein be held to the essential minimum.

DAVID O. BYARS, JR.
Colonel, U. S. Army
Senior Member

4 Incls:
1. Composition of Survey Party.
2. Narrative Account of Activities of Survey Party.
3. Radiological Surveys of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls.
4. Construction Required to Establish Temporary Village for Rongelap Natives.

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COMPOSITION OF SURVEY PARTY

WHICH VISITED RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS, 21-23 APRIL 1954

| Name | Organization | Function |
|---|---|---|
| Colonel David O. Byars, Jr. U.S. Army | Hq, JTF SEVEN | Senior Member |
| Dr. Thomas White | Advisor to CTG 7.1 on RadSafe Matters | RadSafe, health and decontamination |
| Mr. James G. Terrill, Jr. | Advisor from Public Health Service to CTG 7.1 | RadSafe, health and decontamination |
| Captain William Home U.S. Army | Ass't RadSafe Advisor to TG 7.1 from Army Chemical Center | RadSafe, health and decontamination |
| Mr. David L. Narver, Jr. | Project Engineer, Holmes & Narver, Inc. | AEC contractor for repair and construction required |
| Mr. Charles Embree | Ass't Resident Engr., Holmes & Narver, Inc. | " |
| Mr. Charles W. Kelley, Jr. | Ass't Project Mgr., Holmes & Narver, Inc. | " |
| Mr. Marion Wilds | Representative of District Administrator, TERPACIS, at Kwajalein (Ebeye) | Represent HICOMTERPACIS and interests of the natives |
| LCDR Robert W. Wells, U.S. Navy | Legal Officer, U.S. Naval Station at Kwajalein | Represent CINCPACFLT |
| Mr. Douglas Dare | Task Unit 9, TG 7.1 | Cameraman |
| Sgt William W. Baum, U.S. Air Force | Task Unit 9, TG 7.1 | Photographer |
| LT W. H. Chapman U.S. Navy | Project 4.1, Naval Medical Research Institute | Collect samples of soil, water and food for test |
| John | Rongelap | Atoll Magistrate |
| Nicodemus | Rongelap | Native |
| Jabwe | Rongelap | Native |

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UNCLASSIFIED

H-92

| Name | Organization | Function |
|---|---|---|
| Compass | Utirik | Atoll Magistrate |
| Katwodwod | Utirik | Native |
| Saul | Utirik | Native |

[redacted]

INCLOSURE NO. 1

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
APO 187 (HOW), c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

30 April 1954

NARRATIVE OF ACTIVITIES OF SURVEY PARTY ON VISIT TO RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS

19 April - The members of the survey party who are normally based at Eniwetok during Operation CASTLE proceeded to Kwajalein by C-47 aircraft.

20 April - The survey party assembled in the office of RADM Clarke, COMNAVSTRKWAJ, at 1000 hours. In addition to the survey party and ADM Clarke, Dr. John Bugher, Director of Division of Biology and Medicine of the AEC, and Mr. Jack Tobin, District Anthropologist of TERPACIS, were present. Col Byars outlined the purpose and schedule of the trip. Mr. Tobin translated for the natives present. The possibility of having to relocate temporarily the Rongelap natives was discussed briefly. The conference adjourned at 1100 hours. After the conference, Mr. Tobin and Mr. Wilds representing TERPACIS stated that the natives were very glad to learn that definite action is being initiated to return them to their homes.

In the afternoon, members of the survey party and Dr. Bugher visited the office of Project 4.1 and discussed the work of that unit with the Project Officer, CDR E. P. Cronkite. This unit works directly across the street from the barracks in which the 82 natives of Rongelap are billeted. Project 4.1 has conducted extensive tests of evacuated natives, and results of the work will be made available to interested agencies.

At 1600 hours the survey party boarded the USS PHILLIP (DDE 498), which sailed from Kwajalein at 1800 hours.

21 April - The PHILLIP entered the lagoon of Rongelap Atoll at 0700 hours and anchored off the beach of Rongelap Island. The entire party went ashore in motor whaleboats and began a survey of the island. Chickens were seized without delay. No other animals or domestic fowls were observed, except several cats. The three natives from Rongelap assisted the survey party in identifying buildings, locating cisterns and wells, and answering questions. All six natives were active in the collection of chickens and soil, water and food samples. The Rongelap natives transported to the PHILLIP sewing machines and other personal effects from the dwellings.

22 April - The survey party was divided into two groups. One group returned to Rongelap Island and continued the survey of the native village. The other group proceeded by motor whaleboat to three islands of the Rongelap Atoll north of Rongelap Island. These islands were Busch,

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H-97 UNCLASSIFIED

Enialo and Eniaetok. Radiation levels were recorded on the three islands; the intensity increased as the party moved northward, as was expected. Actual readings are presented in Inclosure No. 3. On Enialo Island, birds eggs were gathered for testing since the natives include these in their diet.

Dr. White conducted an experiment on Rongelap Island in which he used fire-fighting equipment from the PHILIP to wash down the thatch roof of one of the native buildings. After a considerable drenching the intensity of the roof was reduced by ten percent, as some of the contamination was washed off the roof onto the ground.

Members of the ship's company were spearfishing in the afternoon and donated their catch to the collection of food samples which will be tested.

The survey of Rongelap was concluded and the party returned to the PHILIP. Certain general observations were presented in regard to the current situation at Rongelap:

1. The present intensity of radiation on Rongelap Island is 15-20 milliroentgens per hour (mr/hr).

2. Little damage to buildings on Rongelap has occurred since the evacuation. The Rongelap natives confirmed this. However, heavy rains or storms during the year or more that the natives will be absent will probably cause considerable damage. An estimate of the repairs necessary for the return of the population must be based on a survey made just prior to this return.

3. The survey party was impressed with the primitiveness of the dwellings. The buildings were walled with woven panels of scrap lumber and were invariably roofed with thatch. The natives sleep on mats which are laid on bare wood floors or directly on the ground. No other furniture is present in the sleeping dwellings except a few wood boxes for storing clothes in each room. The families eat in adjacent buildings or outside. The evacuation of the remainder of the household effects of the 82 Rongelap natives will not present much of a problem.

4. The only building in the village which showed the work of skilled carpentry was the church. However, this edifice had burned shortly before 1 March.

5. The water supply is precarious. There are six concrete cisterns in the village. These cisterns are concrete boxes about five feet on a side. The rain falling on the tin roofs of the cisterns is collected by draining it through gutters into the boxes. Four of the six cisterns contained water, of which samples were taken for testing.

6. A village can be constructed with little effort by Holmes & Narver at another location for the temporary residence of the Rongelap natives which will be at least as comfortable and sanitary as the present Rongelap village.

7. LSTs will have no difficulty in entering the Rongelap lagoon and beaching at the village.

8. The items collected at Rongelap Island for testing included coconuts, pandanus fruit, papayas, water (cistern and well), soil (surface and from three inches under surface), pumpkin, eggs, fish, clams, 12 chickens, and arrowroot. These items afford a good cross section of the diet of the Rongelap residents.

9. There were few food supplies noted. There was a small store, but its shelves were bare. The dwellings contained almost no food items.

23 April - Again the survey party was divided into two parts. One group flew to Utirik Atoll, surveyed the conditions there and returned to Rongelap Atoll lagoon. The other group moved on the PHILIP to Ailinginae Atoll. The destroyer stood off the southern side of the atoll and dispatched motor whaleboats to Sifo and Enibuk Islands.

At Sifo certain equipment left there by members of Task Group 7.1 was recovered. Also, the camp used by the natives from Rongelap was inspected. Sifo will not be satisfactory as a site for the temporary relocation of the Rongelap natives. The natives do not wish to go there; it is inaccessible to medical facilities; and the current radiation levels are 6 MR/HR. At Enibuk Island the crew of the PHILIP assisted the natives in moving the 30-foot sloop onto the beach. The PHILIP returned to Rongelap Atoll lagoon and arrived just as the SA-16 returned from Utirik. The group from the SA-16 aircraft and the samples taken from Utirik were taken aboard the PHILIP, which sailed at 1830 hours for Kwajalein.

The other group of the survey party visited Utirik during the day. The eight members of the party who made the flight to Utirik were: Colonel Byars, Mr. Terrill, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Wilds, Lt Chapman, Mr. Dare, Native Magistrate Compass, and Native Kabwodwod. An SA-16 aircraft from Eniwetok landed in the lagoon at Rongelap, took aboard the survey group, and took off for Utirik at 0830.

The SA-16 landed at Utirik at 1000 hours. There are many coral heads in the lagoon just under the surface of the water, but the pilot of the SA-16 was able to land without difficulty. The survey group moved to and from the beach in the six-man rubber life raft from the aircraft.

The following general observations concerning Utirik are submitted: Details of the current contamination levels are presented in Inclosure No. 3:

1. The village at Utirik is a similar to but larger than the village at Rongelap. Utirik is the only inhabited island in the atoll. The island is more productive than Rongelap; papayas, pandanus, and bread fruit grow abundantly. The houses and cisterns were somewhat better than those at Rongelap.

2. Three pigs were taken for testing. Several wild dogs were seen but were not captured. If any of these dogs are still alive when the natives return, the dogs must be destroyed. The dogs have killed all the chickens abandoned at the time of the evacuation.

3. According to the natives, LSTs have beached at the village, despite narrow passage into the lagoon and the coral heads there.

4. The following items were removed from Utirik for testing; cocoanuts, pandanus fruit, papayas, grass, water, soil, three pigs, bread fruit, and arrowroot.

The survey group returned to the SA-16 and departed from Utirik at 1515 hours. The group returned to the PHILIP at Rongelap and the destroyer got underway at 1830 hours.

24 April - The PHILIP docked at Kwajalein at 0800 hours. The survey party, less the natives, moved to the Guest House where a conference was conducted at 1000 hours. Mr. Tobin, District Anthropologist for TERPACIS, was also present. The results of the survey trip were discussed and plans for the drafting of this report were made.

The members of the survey party who are stationed at Eniwetok Atoll returned by C-54 aircraft, arriving at Eniwetok Island at 1315 hours, which concluded the trip.

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Eniwetok Atoll, M.I.
30 April 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Senior Member, Survey Party

SUBJECT: Radiological Surveys of RONGELAP and UTIRIK Atolls

Submitted herewith is a report on the radiological survey of certain islands of the RONGELAP, UTIRIK and AILINGINAE Atolls conducted by the undersigned 21-23 April 1954. The contents of this report are organized as follows:

I. RONGELAP and AILINGINAE

1. Preliminary Remarks.
2. Methods.
3. Dose rates and doses.
4. Distribution of contamination.
5. Decontamination.
6. Food and water data.

II. UTIRIK

1. Preliminary Remarks.
2. Methods.
3. Dose rates and doses.
4. Distribution of contamination.
5. Food and water data.

Dr. Thomas White
LASL, Advisor to CTG 7.1

1 Attachment:
Report

James G. Terrill, Jr.
PHS, Advisor to CTG 7.1

William M. Home
Captain, USA
Army Chemical Center

INCLOSURE NO. 3 [redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED

# 93

I. RONGELAP and AILINGNAE

1. PRELIMINARY REMARKS: Following the general conference at Kwajalein on 20 April, there was an informal conference between representatives of the Survey Team and Dr. John Bugher, Mr. Merrill Eisenbud, and CDR Cronkite and other members of Project 4.2, on the problem of sampling the Rongelap food and water supply and the soil. Mr. J. Tobin (Marshall District Anthropologist) supplied a detailed list of food materials, with the relative importance of each indicated. After considerable discussion of sampling methods, it appeared to be generally agreed that decisions on this complex problem might be postponed for the following main reasons:

a. Unless the radiation dose rate on Rongelap should be found to be far less than that expected from prior surveys, there would be no possibility of returning the natives to their homes for many months.

b. Current findings on contamination of the food supply, although of considerable inherent value, would be of little use in predicting the state of the food supply at some distant future date when the people might return.

It was therefore decided that the emphasis in the Rongelap survey would be on external radiation measurements and on decontamination problems; that although food, water and earth samples would be collected as permitted by other work, no special effort would be made to obtain analyses of these samples as a basis for any conclusions of this report. At this time the services of Lt. William Chapman, USN, were offered by Project 4.1 for the collection of food and soil samples for interested agencies.

2. METHODS: Gamma radiation dose rates, except where otherwise specified, were made with one or more AN/PDR-39 survey instruments at about three feet above ground level. Three such instruments were taken on the expedition, and they gave readings in good agreement with one another. Where contact readings are specified, the bottom of the instrument was placed in contact with the surface in question.

The results of the analysis of the food are only qualitative. The technique used in determining the radioactive content of the various food stuffs would be sensitive mainly to surface contamination. Self absorption of beta activity was not evaluated. Precise measurements using more sensitive techniques will be made by NRDL and NYOO. The technique used should detect contamination levels to approximately 80 DPM ($4 \times 10^{-5}$ uc) on the surface of samples, however.

The specific activity of the water samples was obtained by evaporating to dryness one milliliter of each of the samples in a glass counting cup and determining the activity in the resulting sample using a GM tube and Berkley scaler. Bismuth-210 was used as the standard to convert CPM to micro-curies per milliliter. The specific activity of the water samples from Rongelap indicate values that are roughly 10,000 times greater than the tolerance of $10^{-7}$ uc/ml beta activity established by the National Bureau of Standards

I. RONGELAP AND AILINGNAE (CONT'D)

Handbook 52 for lifetime consumption. The Utirik samples varied from 100 to 1000 times the accepted tolerance. These data indicate the necessity for thorough cleaning of the cisterns before refilling for general consumption.

Existing conditions made it impractical to attempt any assay for the plutonium activity, which may be of importance in these samples.

3. DOSE RATES AND DOSES: Ailingnae Atoll, Sifo Island, 23 April, 6 mr/hr. All of the remaining report under the Rongelap-Ailingnae heading pertains to Rongelap Atoll.

On Rongelap Island, at the standard position established by Scoville, the reading at 0930 hours on 21 April was 17 mr/hr. This measurement, and those made on 11 and 26 March fit a decay formula 169t-1.526 r/day (t in days after 1 March) within about 3%.

On 22 April readings were made on other Rongelap Atoll Islands as follow

| ISLAND | AVE. | MAX. | DECAY EXPONENT | STAKE LOCATIONS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eniaetok | 32 mr/hr | 34 mr/hr | -1.4 | 2 stks-100 yds beach, just north at western peninsula |
| Busch | 17 mr/hr | 21 mr/hr | -1.46 | 1 stk-50 yds beach, center of path in south grove |
| Eniaelo | 20 mr/hr | -------- | (no prior data) | 1 stk-south end of island |

With reasonable precision, these readings (and that on Sifo Island) are related to previous observations by the same decay exponent.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF CONTAMINATION: Returning to the status of Rongelap Island, it was noted, as on the 26 March survey, that the readings over grave areas (about 15 mr/hr) were consistently lower than over grassy areas (about 20 mr/hr). The smooth concrete floor of the roofless church gave a contact reading of about 6 mr/hr, while the contact reading on the bordering gravel, about 18 mr/hr, was consistently higher than more distant gravel, about 15 mr/hr, as though the radioactive particles that landed on the concrete had been swept into the nearby gravel by the wind, (a similar phenomenon was noted on Parry Island during the Greenhouse Operation).

No exceptional contamination of sleeping mats was noted, but this question was not studied extensively. It was noted, however, that in those huts that had few openings, the contact readings on the floor, both on mat and on dirt, were exceptionally low (4 - 5 mr/hr).

Contamination of thatched roofs was noted, particularly on windward slopes, where the contact reading on the instrument was as much as 100% in excess of that obtained when the instrument was held at the same height above ground at some distance from the roof. However, since the excess reading onl

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began to appear when the instrument was within about six inches from the roof, it seemed unlikely that decontamination of the roof would effect any substantial reduction of exposure of inhabitants in a hut.

A crude attempt was made to ascertain depth of penetration of radioactivity in a patch of soil near the center of the village. The place chosen was a bare patch of loose soil in a grassy area. Successive layers of about one inch in thickness was scooped up, each layer being put in a separate can, and then the radiations from the cans were compared on the beach where the background was much lower. The third layer had no detectable activity; the first layer had about six times the activity of the second. It is quite possible that all of the activity in the second layer may have come from spillage during removal of the first layer. An effort was made to collect an even thinner layer. The technique was even more unsatisfactory, but the results indicated that the activity per unit volume was several times greater in the thin layer than in the first inch. One can conclude that there was very little if any activity below two inches, and that the activity may be entirely superficial.

5. DECONTAMINATION: Since the state of the vegetation and the cisterns indicated that there had been little if any rain on the island, an attempt was made to find out whether future rains might effect any natural decontamination. The ship's crew mounted a portable gasoline-driven water-pump on the beach, connected a hose, and sprayed salt water on the thatched roof of one hut, and on a neighboring gravel area. The contact reading on the roof of the hut was reduced by 10% (after subtracting the general background from the readings, this indicates approximately 25% decontamination of the roof), but there was no noticeable reduction in contact readings on the floor of the hut or on the washed-down gravel area. While this experiment cannot be regarded as conclusive, it suggests that one should not be optimistic about the effect of future rains. It should be noted that Eniwetok Atoll experience on this subject is conflicting. During Operation Greenhouse, the heavy rains just prior to George Shot had little effect on the Dog Shot fall-out, but the rains that followed soon after the departure of the Task Force appear to have been fairly effective. However, even if the experience had been consistent, the terrain surfaces at Rongelap and Eniwetok are so different that it would be unsafe to draw conclusions.

It was evident that any attempt at artificial decontamination would be difficult and very expensive relative to the cost of supporting the population elsewhere until radioactive decay has reduced the radiation to an acceptable level. Decontamination operations of the type used on Eniwetok Atoll (bulldozing and grading) would not be applicable because of the total destruction of all vegetation and severe damage to the thin top-soil in the area covered. Any reasonable non-destructive decontamination effort would have to be a manual job.

I. RONGELAP AND AILINGNAE (CONT'D)

6. FOOD AND WATER DATA:

| ITEM | DATE OF PROCUREMENT | ACTIVITY | DATE OF ANALYSIS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drinking Water Cistern-Map 37* | 4-21-54 | 2.52X10-3 uc/ml | 4-25-54 |
| Drinking Water (clear) Cistern-Map 49 | " | 8.03X10-4 uc/ml | " |
| Drinking Water (stirred) Cistern-Map 49 | " | 1.90X10-3 uc/ml | " |
| Drinking Water Cistern-Map 19 | " | 1.19X10-3 uc/ml | " |
| Drinking Water Cistern-Map 8 | " | None | " |
| Well Water (Brackish) Well-Map 66 | " | None | " |
| Jekru (Fresh) Collected on 4-22-54 | 4-22-54 | 2.52X10-3 uc/ml | 4-25-54 |
| Coconut Milk | 4-23-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Meat from Pandanus | 4-22-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Green Papaya-Interior | 4-22-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Ripe Papaya-Interior | 4-22-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Arrow Root-Interior | 4-22-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Swipe-Exterior Arrow Root | 4-22-54 | 974 DPM | 4-25-54 |
| Swipe-Exterior Papaya | 4-22-54 | 1640 DPM | 4-25-54 |

* Refers to map of Native village - Rongelap Island - Rongelap Atoll

[redacted]

1. PRELIMINARY REMARKS: At the planning conference at Kwajalein on 20 April it was agreed that radiation levels at Utirik might allow an early return of the natives. Accordingly, it was decided to make a field study of food and water as well as an external radiation survey based on the pattern employed at Rongelap.

2. METHODS: External gamma dose rates were measured with AN/PDR-39 and MX-5 survey instruments. These instruments gave readings in good agreement with each other. Average readings integrated over the exposure time closely checked dosimeter readings.

3. DOSE RATES AND DOSES: Prior to this survey, no standard positions were established on this island. A standard position was established on April 23 at 1100 hours. The reading at this point and three feet above the ground was 3.0 mr/hr. An average reading in the vegetated area of the island was 2.8 mr/h The readings about the buildings where gravel is prevalent averaged about 2.2 mr/hr. This data with the measurements made on 4 and 11 March fit a decay formula: $D_r=20t^{-1.42}$ r/day (t in days after 1 March)

This formula indicates that a level of 0.3 r/week would be reached in 75 to 80 days after 1 March, 15-20 May). An integration of the expected external dosage from 1 June 1954 to 1 Jun 1955 gives a 3.4 r exposure. This can be compared with the 3.9 r external gamma per year level established by the Atomic Energy Commission as a limit for off-site populations. The integrated external gamma dosage over the year beginning 1 June could be somewhat, but not significantly, higher if the decay rate leveled off to the conventional $t^{-1.2}$ rate.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF CONTAMINATION: The contamination was fairly uniformly distributed over the island. The highest reading out of doors at the 3 feet elevation was 3.3 mr/hr and the lowest was 2.0 mr/hr. There was some reduction in readings indoors, and this reduction was substantially larger, 60 percent in a large building like the church, as compared with a small building like a typical dwelling. Gravel areas (2.2 mr/hr) gave lower readings than the grassy areas (2.8 mr/hr).

The sleeping mats showed gamma readings (1.0 - 1.2 mr/hr) about half the levels outdoors (2.2 - 2.4 mr/hr) but beta plus gamma levels were somewhat higher (3.5 mr/hr) than the outdoor gamma readings. Contamination of the thatched roofs was noted. It was necessary to place the instrument close to (less than 3 feet) and perpendicular to the roof surface to consistently detect this effect with gamma measurements. The MX-5 picked up this increase in contamination more consistently when detecting both beta and gamma.

II. UTIRIK (CONT'D) [redacted]

5. FOOD AND WATER DATA:

| ITEM | DATE OF PROCUREMENT | ACTIVITY | DATE OF ANALYSIS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Drinking Water-Cistern near Church | 4-23-54 | $3.21 \times 10^{-4}$ uc/ml | 4-25-54 |
| Drinking Water-Cistern-north settlement | 4-23-54 | $3.90 \times 10^{-4}$ uc/ml | 4-25-54 |
| Brackish Well Water-200 yds south of Church-unprotected hole | 4-23-54 | $5.3 \times 10^{-5}$ uc/ml | 4-25-54 |
| Clear Well Water-350 yds south of Church-corrugated metal siding & cover | 4-23-54 | $7.3 \times 10^{-5}$ uc/ml | 4-25-54 |
| Milk from Bread Fruit | 4-23-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Solids from Bread Fruit | 4-23-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Ripe Papaya-Interior | 4-23-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Green Papaya-Interior | 4-23-54 | None | 4-25-54 |
| Arrow Root-Interior | 4-23-54 | None | 4-25-54 |

[redacted]

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

Eniwetok Atoll, M.I.
30 April 1954

## CONSTRUCTION REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY VILLAGE

We (Holmes & Narver, Inc.) are herewith submitting the following Bill of Material and cost estimate to construct a temporary village on the island of Bikej in the Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

The cost estimate outlined below is based on the following:

1. Construction is to be on Bikej Island.
2. H&N will furnish all material.
3. The Navy will transport the material to Bikej Island - (no cost included).
4. H&N will furnish one (1) carpenter foreman, two (2) carpenters and one (1) heavy equipment operator.
5. The Navy Station Kwajalein is to furnish the four (4) H&N men housing and transportation between Kwajalein and Bikej - (no cost included for transportation).
6. That heavy equipment required (grader, etc) is available at Kwajalein (no cost included for equipment).
7. That natives are available for labor and as carpenter assistants - (no wages for natives included, but will be funded by JTF SEVEN).
8. That the H&N carpenters are furnished with an interpreter.
9. H&N will furnish portable generator and power saw.
10. Tools for native labor will be furnished by Navy Station Kwajalein.

## SUMMARY OF MATERIAL

| | |
|---|---|
| Framing Lumber | 44552 B.F. |
| Framing Nails (Aluminum) | 9 Kegs |
| Nails for Plywood (Aluminum) | 3 Kegs |
| Corrugated Aluminum Roofing | 16944 Sq. Ft. |
| Aluminum Ridge Cap | 744 Lin. Ft. |
| Aluminum Gutter | 1636 Lin. Ft. |
| Plywood, 3/8" | 727 Sheets |
| Plywood, 1/2" | 410 Sheets |
| Wood Doors | 44 |
| Door Handles | 48 |
| Door Hinges | 48 Pair |
| Seat Hinges | 8 Pair |
| Shutter Hinges | 152 Pair |
| Eye Bolts with Hooks | 400 |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Paint | 52 Gals. |
| Screening | 256 Sq. Ft. |
| Nailing Strips, 1" X 1" | 350 Lin. Ft. |
| Screen Door | 4 |
| Mess Tables, 8' Long | 11 |

MATERIAL COSTS

| | | Labor | Material | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lumber | 44552 B.F. | | .10 | 4455 |
| Rough Hardware Nails | 12 Kegs | | 12.00 | 145 |
| Corrugated Metal Sheets | 16994 S.F. | | .22 | 3740 |
| Aluminum Ride Cap | 744 L.F. | | .156 | 115 |
| Aluminum Sheet for Gutter | 1636 L.F. | | .20 | 325 |
| 3/8" Plywood | 23264 S.F. | | .18 | 4190 |
| 1/2" Plywood | 13120 S.F. | | .22 | 2885 |
| Single Flush Doors | 44 ea | | 13.00 | 570 |
| Door Handles | 48 ea | | .20 | 10 |
| Door Hinges | 48 Pr. | | 1.75 | 85 |
| Seat Cover Hinges | 8 Pr. | | .65 | 5 |
| Shutter Hinges | 152 Pr. | | .80 | 120 |
| Eye Bolts & Hooks | 400 ea | | .15 | 60 |
| Screening | 256 S.F. | | .15 | 40 |
| Screen Door | 4 ea | | 10.00 | 40 |
| 1 x 1 Nailing Strips for Screening | 350 L.F. | | .15 | 55 |
| Paint | 52 Gal. | | 3.75 | 195 |
| Mess Tables | 11 ea. | | 11.50 | 130 |
| H&N Carpenters 3 for 3 weeks = 54 Man Days | | 1510 | | |
| H&N Heavy Duty Man 1 Week = 7 Man Days | | 195 | | |
| | TOTAL COST - | 1705.00 | | 17,165.00 |

The above total of 17,165 includes man power furnished by H&N.

The above bill of material is needed to construct the temporary village in accordance with the drawings number Misc. 255 and 256 showing the sizes and construction of the various buildings required and as stated in memorandum letter dated April 27, 1954 from Mr. Marion Wilds, Acting Destad Rep. Ebeye - for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

No provisions for cisterns are being made at this time for the temporary village at Bikej as there is available on the island (2) 15,000 gallon cisterns which only need cleaning and filling..

At the time the natives are returned to their island of Rongelap, there will be a need to construct new roofs over cisterns, the cost of which will have to be included in the cost of moving the natives from Bikej Island to Rongelap Island. Also at this time to include cost of repair or replacement due to damage by storm during the interval the natives are away.

2 Attachments:
1. H&N drawing No. Misc 255
2. H&N drawing No. Misc 256

[redacted]

INCLOSURE NO. 4

UNCLASSIFIED [redacted]

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

CINCPACFLT FILE
FF1-1
A11
Ser 01339
17 JUN 1954

[redacted]

From: Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet
To: Commander Joint Task Force Seven

Subj: Survey of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

Ref: (a) CJTF SEVEN CONF ltr J-3/141.8 of 1 May 1954
(b) CINCPAC CONF Msg 160501Z of Apr 1954
(c) CNO CONF Msg 111955Z of May 1954
(d) CINCPAC UNCL Msg 122157Z of May 1954
(e) CINCPACFLT CONF Msg 112214Z of May 1954
(f) CINCPACFLT CONF Msg 142006Z of May 1954
(g) CJTF SEVEN CONF Msg 120436Z of May 1954
(h) CJTF SEVEN CONF Msg 140430Z of May 1954

1. Reference (a) forwarded the report of the survey party which visited Rongelap and Utirik Atolls during the period 21-23 April 1954 in order to determine requisite action for rehabilitation of these atolls prior to return of inhabitants who were evacuated incident to hazards resulting from the first test in the CASTLE series. CJTF SEVEN concurred in the recommendations of the survey report and requested to be advised of CINCPAC's approval of these recommendations.

2. Reference (b) apprised CNO of CINCPAC's views and CJTF SEVEN's preliminary advice on the matter of rehabilitation. This was approved by CNO in reference (c) which further stated that no funds other than normal support should be expended without prior approval.

3. CINCPAC delegated responsibility for the subject matter to CINCPACFLT in reference (d) and further directed CJTF SEVEN to report to CINCPACFLT for the tasks outlined.

4. In reference (e) and (f), CINCPACFLT provided guidance for the resolution of certain matters in connection with rehabilitation of the Rongelap and Utirik natives.

5. CJTF SEVEN informed cognizant commanders of the detailed plans for native rehabilitation in references (g) and (h).

6. On the basis of the foregoing action, CINCPACFLT considers that all basic questions pertinent to native rehabilitation have been resolved and that action is proceeding satisfactorily. As a matter of record, CINCPACFLT's action on the recommendations of the survey report is summarized in the

H-105

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following paragraphs. This summary will also serve the purpose of providing guidance for matters of possible future occurrence until completion of the native rehabilitation project.

7. Comments on the specific recommendations of the survey party contained in paragraph 4 of enclosure (1) to reference (a) are listed after each recommendation which is quoted for convenient reference:

a. UTIRIK

(1) "Several days after the last CASTLE shot, Utirik Atoll should be inspected again by RadSafe personnel of JTF SEVEN or AEC to determine whether or not additional contamination has occurred. If no increase in external radiation and food and water contamination levels is noted, the return of the natives may be undertaken without delay. The contamination levels now present at the two atolls are indicated in Inclosure 3. Research analysis of the foods and water collected is being made by NRDL and NYOO."

COMMENT: Concur.

(2) "CINCPACFLT should designate a project officer to coordinate the activities of interested agencies in the return of the Utirik natives."

COMMENT: Reference (f) provided for CO NAVSTA KWAJALEIN to coordinate the project and act as the local representative of CINCPACFLT in the discharge of CINCPACFLT responsibilities in connection with the subject project. It further provided for CO NAVSTA KWAJALEIN to designate a project officer at his discretion.

(3) "CINCPACFLT should designate and make available a ship which will transport the Utirik natives and their belongings from Kwajalein back to Utirik. In addition to the few personal effects the natives have with them, the following items should be moved to Utirik. These items should be assembled by the CINCPACFLT project officer in coordination with the local Kwajalein representative of TERPACIS, and the funds for necessary purchases should be provided by JTF SEVEN:

(a) Used lumber, already made available by ComNavSta Kwajalein.

(b) Flour, salt and other staple items of food supplies adequate for one month.

(c) Limited amounts of nails, window glass, metal roofing and medical supplies as determined by CINCPACFLT project officer in coordination with Kwajalein representative of TERPACIS.

[redacted]

(d) 10,000 gallons of fresh water to flush and refill Utirik cisterns.

(e) Approximately 400 chickens, 120 pigs and small numbers of other animals as determined by CINCPACFLT project officer, in coordination with TERPACIS representative. Some of these animals are already being obtained by the TERPACIS representatives at Kwajalein."

COMMENT: LST 1157 being utilized as provided for in references (e), (g) and (h). Reference (e) authorized the provision of certain supplies by CO NAVSTA KWAJALEIN subject to his discretion. CINCPACFLT has no project officer for determination of numbers of animals to be provided. This determination and detailed arrangements regarding animals are considered to be HICOMTERPACIS responsibilities.

(4) "The survey party was advised that on a number of occasions LST's have entered the Utirik lagoon. The use of this type ship is recommended, if the CINCPACFLT project officer concurs after investigation of the lagoon channels."

COMMENT: Concur subject to requirements of safe navigation as determined by the LST commanding officer.

(5) "No construction or repair work by U.S. personnel is required, since little deterioration of the buildings on Utirik has occurred since the evacuation."

COMMENT: Satisfactory to CINCPACFLT in consideration of the fact that CJTF SEVEN is best equipped to evaluate this matter and has concurred with this recommendation.

(6) "no decontamination work is required, except for the flushing and cleaning of cisterns recommended above."

COMMENT: Concur subject to the same comments in subparagraph 7.a.(5) above.

b. RONGELAP

(1) "The natives of Rongelap Atoll should be relocated on an island of the Kwajalein Atoll for the period of approximately one year. BIKEJ Island has been selected by TERPACIS representatives at Kwajalein for this purpose. This island is under control of TERPACIS. COMNAVSTAKWAJ concurs in this selection. The relocation near NAVSTA Kwajalein is in accord with the recommendations of the Project Officer of Project 4.1, who will shortly conclude the active medical surveillance of the Rongelap natives at Kwajalein.

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CINCPACFLT FILE
FF1-1
A11
Ser 01339

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COMMENT: Majuro Atoll has been selected as the site for temporary relocation of the Rongelap natives, upon representation of HICOMTERPACIS for reasons of native welfare, as set forth in reference (e).

(2) "As in the case of the Utirik natives, CINCPACFLT should designate a project officer to coordinate the activities of interested agencies during the temporary relocation of Rongelap natives and during their ultimate return to their homes."

COMMENT: Reference (f) provided for COMNAVSTAKWAJALEIN to coordinate movement of the Rongelap natives to Majuro. Responsibility for their welfare during their temporary residence on Majuro rests with HICOMTERPACIS, CINCPACFLT will arrange for necessary coordination in connection with their ultimate return to Rongelap at a later date.

(3) "The temporary nature of this relocation should be given wide publicity throughout the Trust Territories and U. S. news media, after the movement has been completed."

COMMENT: Concur. It is considered that this matter should be and is being handled at departmental level by the Atomic Energy Commission, Department of Defense, Department of Interior and other interested government agencies. It is assumed that HICOMTERPACIS will provide for appropriate publicity within the Trust Territories.

(4) "The AEC contractor at the Pacific Proving Grounds (Holmes and Narver, Inc.) should prefabricate as necessary and supervise the construction of small wood dwellings, a combination school and church, a dispensary, and other buildings and cisterns for the 82 Rongelap natives to be relocated temporarily in the Kwajalein Atoll. Materials for this construction will be provided from Eniwetok and delivered to the site of the new village by JTF SEVEN. Details of the construction required are presented in Inclosure 4."

COMMENT: Concur, except for substitution of Majuro vice Kwajalein as the temporary relocation site.

(5) "Common labor for this construction should be provided by the natives of Rongelap themselves, as much as possible. Holmes and Narver personnel will perform the more difficult tasks. Native labor should be paid wages by JTF SEVEN at a wage scale determined by the representatives of TERPACIS."

COMMENT: Concur.

(6) "Water and staple food supplies for one month should be provided initially, as in the case of the Utirik natives covered above. Likewise, chickens and animals should be provided in numbers determined by representatives of TERPACIS and the CINCPACFLT project officer. In addition, the Rongelap natives must be provided minimum food supplies and other essentials on a continuing basis, since they will have no income from sale of copra and

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since BIKEJ Island provides meager quantities of natural foods."

COMMENT: Concur subject to pertinent remarks previously expressed in references (b) and (e). CINCPACFLT has no project officer for determination of numbers of livestock to be provided. This determination and necessary procurement arrangements are considered to be HICOMTERPACIS responsibilities.

(7) "Just prior to the time the Rongelap natives are moved from Kwajalein Island to BIKEJ Island, a ship should be sent to Rongelap Island to pick up the clothing, books and other belongings (including two 30-foot sloops) of the natives. Decontamination of these items should be performed at Kwajalein under supervision of local or JTF SEVEN Radsafe personnel."

COMMENT: Arrangements for transfer of Rongelap natives boats and personal effects to Majuro in LST 1157 have been made by COMNAVSTA KWAJALEIN.

(8) "Periodic medical surveys of the natives and Radsafe surveys of the atolls should be conducted by qualified personnel operating out of NavSta Kwajalein. Dr. Bugner, DEM, AEC, stated that his office would periodically send groups of qualified personnel to Kwajalein for this purpose."

COMMENT: Concur.

(9) "AEC RadSafe personnel resident in the Pacific Proving Grounds in conjunction with representatives of DEM, AEC, should make periodic inspections of the islands of Rongelap Atoll to ascertain the rate of decay of the contamination. Reports of these inspections should be forwarded to interested agencies; AEC, CINCPACFLT, JTF SEVEN, COMNAVSTA KWAJALEIN.

COMMENT: Concur.

(10) "A representative of CINCPACFLT, probably COMNAVSTAKWAJ, should monitor the general welfare of the Rongelap natives during their temporary stay at Kwajalein Atoll."

COMMENT: Monitoring of general welfare of natives, wherever located, is a continuing responsibility of HICOMTERPACIS.

(11) "In the spring of 1955, another survey party should visit the islands of Rongelap Atoll and the natives in their temporary homes at Kwajalein Atoll to determine when these natives may be returned to their homes and what additional action must be taken prior to their movement from Kwajalein Atoll. The same agencies should be represented on this later survey party as on this group. Funds required for this movement and the construction and supplies necessary at Rongelap Island will be provided by JTF SEVEN."

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A11
Ser 01339

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COMMENT: Concur, subject to substitution of Majuro vice Kwajalein as the site of temporary residence of the Rongelap natives.

8. CJTF SEVEN is requested to confirm that the AEC will undertake participation indicated in paragraphs 7.b.(8) and 7.b.(9).

9. By copy of this letter, HICOMTERPACIS is requested to advise as to whether he concurs in the actions indicated in this letter, and specifically to confirm the understandings as to matters for which HICOMTERPACIS assumes as indicated in the "COMMENTS" in paragraphs 7.a.(3), 7.b.(2), 7.b.(3), 7.b.(6), &.b.(10).

10. CJTF SEVEN is requested to provide copies of reference (a) to all information addressees listed for distribution in this letter. Further distribution of reference (a) at the discretion of CJTF SEVEN is authorized, provided a copy of this letter is bound with each copy of reference (a) so distributed.

H. G. HOPWOOD
Chief of Staff

Copy to:
CNO (5 copies)
CINCPAC
COMHAWSEAFRON
CO NAVSTA KWAJALEIN
HICOMTERPACIS

AUTHENTICATED

/s/ A. R. Olsen
A. R. OLSEN
Flag Secretary

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HEADQUARTERS
JOINT TASK FORCE SEVEN
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

6 July 1954

J-3/729.3

SUBJECT: Responsibilities for Care and Disposition of Native Inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

TO: Manager
Santa Fe Operations Office
P. O. Box 5400
Albuquerque, New Mexico

1. Mr. James E. Reeves of your agency telephoned this headquarters 16 June and discussed with Colonel Byers, J-3 Division, Headquarters JTF SEVEN, the status of Mr. Thomas A. Hardison as representative of General Clarkson on matters concerning the care and disposition of evacuated natives. The question is pertinent since you assumed on 2 June full responsibility for all AEC matters pertaining to the Pacific Proving Grounds.

2. On 14 May 1954, CINCPACFLT requested CJTF SEVEN to advise that agency of the name of the person who would represent CJTF SEVEN in the Forward Area after the personnel of Headquarters, JTF SEVEN returned to Washington. In order to avoid the necessity of leaving indefinitely at Eniwetok a staff officer of this headquarters, CJTF SEVEN designated Mr. Hardison his representative at Eniwetok in connection with the disposition of native inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls. Mr. Hardison visited Kwajalein and Majuro Atolls several times and was eminently well-qualified to act as representative of CJTF SEVEN in this matter.

3. As you know, the native inhabitants of Utirik Atoll have been returned from Kwajalein to their home island. The native inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll have been temporarily relocated for a period of about one year on Ejit Island of Majuro Atoll, while the radioactive contamination of Rongelap decays to acceptable levels. It is not now contemplated that extensive construction or repair will be necessary on Rongelap Island when the inhabitants of that atoll are returned to their homes. Consequently, it is doubtful that Holmes and Narver, Inc., and the AEC Resident Engineer at Eniwetok will be called upon to take further action in regard to the care and disposition of the natives. Mr. Hardison is, therefore, relieved of any responsibility as CJTF SEVEN representative in this matter.

4. The responsibilities of interested agencies for the continued care and disposition of the natives of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls are delineated for your information as follows:

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J-3/
SUBJECT: Responsibilities for Care and Disposition of Native Inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

a. CINCPAC has overall responsibility under the Department of Defense for the completion of the project for the restoration of atolls, with AEC assistance, and for the return of inhabitants. CINCPAC delegated to CINCPACFLT its responsibility in this connection. CINCPACFLT instructed COMNAVSTAKWAJ to coordinate and act as its local representative in the discharge of CINCPACFLT responsibilities in connection with the displaced natives. COMNAVSTAKWAJ designated LCDR Robert W. Wells the Project Officer to represent CINCPACFLT interests.

b. The routine welfare and care of all Marshall Island natives are continuing responsibilities of the High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, as agent for Department of the Interior.

c. The Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, will continue to monitor the physical condition of the native inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls who were exposed to radioactive contamination as a result of the first shot of the CASTLE series. Parties of medical and radsafe personnel under the direction of Division of Biology and Medicine, AEC, will visit the natives and the atolls concerned periodically in order to observe the medical progress of the natives and to ascertain the earliest possible time for the return of the Rongelap natives to their homes. The first visit of this AEC-sponsored group is planned for August or September of this year. Representatives of this headquarters will accompany the AEC party.

d. JTF SEVEN naturally has a continuing interest in this matter. JTF SEVEN has furnished funds to pay certain medical expenses for the natives while at Kwajalein, for the procurement of livestock to replace that lost as a result of the contamination, for the construction of a temporary village at Majuro Atoll, for the purchase of food and clothing supplies, and for other purposes. JTF SEVEN will continue to provide funds for the provision of food for the Rongelap natives while they are at Majuro and will pay for initial food stocks when they are returned to their homes. CTG 7.2 will represent CJTF SEVEN at Eniwetok in connection with the disposition of Utirik and Rongelap natives, in the event any problem arises which can and must be handled at the Pacific Proving Grounds.

5. Santa Fe Operations Office has no routine responsibilities for the continued care and disposition of these natives. The erection of the temporary village at Majuro under the supervision of Mr. Hardison was per-

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J-3/
SUBJECT: Responsibilities for Care and Disposition of Native Inhabitants of Rongelap and Utirik Atolls

formed with promptness and efficiency. According to reports received here, the construction is excellent. The assistance and cooperation provided by Mr. Hardison and his assistants is greatly appreciated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/s/ E. McGinley
/t/ E. McGINLEY
Major General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

Copy furnished:
Mr. T. A. Hardison
USAEC, Eniwetok

CTG 7.2, Eniwetok

AEC/DMA, ATTN: Lt Col Greenberg

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